

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, RP
SUBJECT: FORMATION OF "OPPOSITION" IN INTERIM BATASANG
- PAMBANSA (IBP)

1. SUMMARY: ESTABLISHMENT OF "SHADOW CABINET" BY PUSYON BISAYA (PB) PARTY AND OTHER MOVES TO ORGANIZE OPPOSITION IN IBP HAVE RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN MANILA PRESS. SPARRING BETWEEN PB AND MARCOS' KBL PARTY HAS ALREADY BEGUN WITH CONTENTION OVER ROLE OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. PRESS HAS ALSO SPECULATED ON POSSIBILITY OF UNITED OPPOSITION COMPOSED OF THREE OPPOSITION PARTIES. THREE PARTIES, HOWEVER, ARE ESSENTIALLY REGIONAL AND WOULD HAVE TO EXPAND THEIR ORGANIZATION TO A NATIONAL LEVEL TO BE EFFECTIVE. MORE BASIC IS THE QUESTION OF THE OPPOSITION-IST CREDENTIALS OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS. IN VIEW OF REPORTED MALACANANG FUNDING, THE PB, FOR EXAMPLE, CONTINUES
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TO BE REGARDED AS A PSEUDO-OPPOSITIONIST MOVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. MANILA PRESS DURING THE LAST WEEK HAS GIVEN FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO ORGANIZATION OF "OPPOSITION" IN THE IBP. TO DATE THE OPPOSITION IS COMPOSED OF THE THIRTEEN PUSYON BISAYA PARTY (PB) MEMBERS FROM REGION VII (CENTRAL

VISAYAS) AND THE SOLE NON-KBL CANDIDATE ELECTED IN REGION X (NORTHERN MINDANAO), RUBEN CANOY. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, PB MEMBERS FORMED SHADOW CABINET MAY 31 AND ANNOUNCED THEY WOULD GIVE PRIVITY TO FOUR ISSUES: THE LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW, LIMITING THE TERMS OF IBP MEMBERS TO TWO YEARS, HOLDING OF LOCAL ELECTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND CHANGING THE IBP INTO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

3. INITIAL SPARRING BETWEEN KBL AND PB HAS ALREADY BEGUN OVER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POST OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. THE PB DESIRES TO HAVE THE DEPUTY DESIGNATED AS MARCOS' SUCCESSOR IN EITHER THE RULES OF THE IBP OR IN LEGISLATION. IT HAS ALSO URGED THAT THE DEPUTY COME FROM EITHER THE VISAYAS OR MINDANAO SINCE THE PRIME MINISTER COMES FROM LUZON. THE KBL HAS ATTACKED THE PB PROPOSALS, ARGUING THAT ANY SUCCESSOR TO PRESIDENT/PRIME MINISTER MARCOS WILL BE ELECTED BY THE IBP, AS IS NORMAL IN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEMS. THE POSITION OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IS ALREADY PROVIDED FOR BY THE CONSTITUTION; IT IS DESIGNED TO BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION ONLY. WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IBP, THE KBL CONTENDS, PRESIDENT MARCOS NO LONGER HAS THE AUTHORITY TO APPOINT HIS SUCCESSOR NOR CAN IT BE DONE IN ADVANCE BY LEGISLATION.

4. THE PRESS HAS ALSO SPECULATED ON THE POSSIBLE ALLIANCE OF THE PB AND THE MINDANAO ALLIANCE AND THE KONSENSIYA NG BAYAN, TWO OPPOSITION PARTIES IN MINDANAO. DISCUSSIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BETWEEN PB CHAIRMAN (AND FORMER COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER) CASIMIRO MADARANG AND RUBEN CANOY OF THE MINDANAO ALLIANCE ARE REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED THIS WEEK. IN THE MEANTIME THE PUSYON BISAYA ASKED PRESIDENT MARCOS JUNE 3 TO RECOGNIZE IT AS THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION PARTY IN THE IBP.

5. COMMENT: ALL THREE OF THE ABOVE "OPPOSITION" PARTIES ARE ESSENTIALLY REGIONAL GROUPINGS, WITHOUT MEMBERS OF NATIONAL STATURE AND ORIENTED PRINCIPALLY TOWARD REGIONAL PROBLEMS. WHETHER THEY COULD IN FACT DEVELOP INTO AN EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION WOULD DEPEND ON THEIR ABILITY TO BROADEN THEIR ORGANIZATIONS, EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR FOLLOWING A MERGER, TO A NATIONAL SCALE. MORE BASIC IS THE QUESTION OF THEIR OPPOSITIONIST CREDENTIALS. THE PB, FOR EXAMPLE, CONTINUES TO BE GENERALLY REGARDED AS A PSEUDO-OPPOSITION MOVEMENT. REPORTS OF SUBSTANTIAL MALACANANG FUNDING OF THE PB, VIA KOKOY ROMUALDEZ, AND A SOFTENING OF THE PB'S ANTI-MARCOS RHETORIC IN THE POST-ELECTION PERIOD LEND CREDENCE TO THIS OBSERVATION. MURPHY

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